GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:704
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2000
CONSUMPTION OF DDT
LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the annual consumption of DDT in our country at present;

(b) whether the Government have studied the impact of residual of DDT on human body, foods and other nutrients;

(c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(d) whether the foreign countries have banned the use of DDT; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to safeguard the health of the people in the matter?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI SURESH P. PRABHU)

(a)to(e): A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 704 FOR ANSWER ON 16.05.2000

(a) Use of DDT in Agriculture is banned in the country since 1989.However, a limited quantity of DDT is being used under Public Health Programme for Malaria & Kala-azar Control.The quantity of DDT 50% wdp used under National Anti Malaria Programme during the last three years is as under:-

Year	Quantity (In MT)
1997-98	8542
1998-99	6800
1999-2000	7500

(b)&(c): As per information received from Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), residues of pesticides including that of DDT have been identified in raw food commodities, vegetables, bovine milk etc. in India. However, no report has been received mentioning the incidence of disease following the intake of such food. No studies have been conducted by the ICMR on effect of DDT on human health and food nutrients.

(d)&(e): As per information available, DDT is still used under Public Health sector for vector borne disease control in at least 23 countries in the world.

As per WHO Press Release dated 17.03.2000, `a premature shift to less effective or more costly alternatives to DDT is likely to be unsustainable. Countries need time and resource to evaluate and select alternatives that are locally appropriate and sustainable. In the meantime, they require the reassurance that DDT can be used, if needed, to protect human lives.`

In India, DDT is used for control of Malaria and Kala-azar in the country by undertaking indoor residual spray.Till any other efficacious and cost effective alternative to DDT is available, limited quantity of DDT will have to be used for control of the disease in areas where the vector is still susceptible to DDT. To determine the quantity to be used for Malaria & Kala-azar control, a Group under the Chairmanship of Union Health Secretary has been constituted in 1997 with representatives from the Department of Agriculture and Co-operation, Department of Biotechnology and Planning Commission.